

2019

Project Implementation Review (PIR)

**PAs and Co-Management in Afghanistan**

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# Basic Data

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| **Project Information** | |
| UNDP PIMS ID | 5038 |
| GEF ID | 4839 |
| Title | Establishing integrated models for protected areas and their co-management in Afghanistan |
| Country(ies) | Afghanistan, Afghanistan |
| UNDP-GEF Technical Team | Ecosystems and Biodiversity |
| Project Implementing Partner | Wildlife Conservation Society |
| Joint Agencies | *(not set or not applicable)* |
| Project Type | Full Size |

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| **Project Description** |
| This project is designed to develop a national protected area system in Afghanistan to protect biodiversity and enhance ecosystem function and resilience in ecologically important areas. As land degradation is threatening biodiversity and ecosystem function, the project accordingly addresses sustainable land management as a key measure to protect biodiversity, secure ecosystem services and enhance ecosystem resilience. The project is thus designed as a combined BD and SLM intervention. The project will build programmatically on work initiated with GEF funds through a PA early action grant that led to the creation of a National Protected Area System Plan (NPASP). The project directly addresses BD-1: Improve Sustainability of Protected Area Systems and LD3: Integrated landscapes: Reduce pressures on natural resources from competing land uses in the wider landscape. Biodiversity conservation received limited support in the initial years post-conflict as the government focused on addressing pressing human development issues. However, with the growing recognition that natural resource management is the foundation for reconstruction in the country, with the recent establishment of Band-e-Amir National Park as a functional model for protected area development, and the recent development of a national framework for the management of Protected Areas, this is an opportune time to move protected area development forward. The project seeks to address gaps in this process through the operationalization of a National Protected Area System Plan. It will do so by establishing the necessary institutional framework and capacity for management, establishing Band-e-Amir Provisional National Park with permanent status, gazetting and operationalizing management of the Big Pamir and Teggermansu Protected Areas, which will provide the initial heart of the PA system. These areas will be zoned into core and multiple use lands encompassing areas of highest biodiversity significance. The project will further seek to address land degradation threats that pose a critical risk to habitats and are threatening biodiversity and ecosystem function. the project will thus address sustainable land management as a key measure to protect biodiversity, secure ecosystem services and enhance ecosystem resilience. The project is thus designed as a combined BD and SLM interventions. It will promote the application of climate resilient (Sustainable Land Management) SLM methods and technologies through integrated approaches. Further it will support the documentation of lessons linking SLM actions to climate change adaptation and build capacities for provincial and local government functionaries and local communities to advance SLM. A total of 1,145,678 hectares of land will be designated as the Wakhan Conservation Area, a Protected Landscape or Managed Resource Use PA (IUCN category 6), to contain and reduce these pressures, increase biodiversity intactness and improve connectivity across the landscape, bringing the total area under protection to 1,219,294 hectares. The protected areas will be managed under co-management agreements between local communities and national authorities. SLM technologies will be promoted to combat land and accompanying habitat degradation, and reduce the vulnerability of the comunities to climate change and poverty, thereby containing the threats to biodiversity in this landscape.    Having successfully conducted the recent parliamentary elections the countryÔÇÖs ability to sustain a stable democracy has been enhanced. There is a feeling of great optimism and hope that those improvements to governance structures will bring peace and development. A number of major international conferences were held that has reconfirmed the United States and broad international support for reconstruction efforts and programs to strengthening Afghan institutions and socio-economic development in the country. The improved security, economic development, more confidence in the rule of law, and coordination support the opportunities for sustainable progress in the country. It is thus a most opportune time to take action to emplace the necesessary legislations and site improvements to set up a viable protected areas system to be placed at the forefront of biodiversity conservation efforts in the country.  Environmental conservation is recognised as a pressing concern of the Government of Afghanistan. Article 15 of the Constitution calls for the State to ÔÇ£adopt necessary measures forÔÇª proper exploitation of natural resources and improvement of ecological conditions.ÔÇØ Article 7 directs the State to abide by the UN Charter and international conventions that Afghanistan has signed. Afghanistan has signed and ratified CBD, CITES and the UNCCD. Afghanistan signed the CBD in 1992 and the UNCCD in 1995. Under the CBD, AfghanistanÔÇÖs National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP) is now close to approval. This Plan calls for the establishment of legally recognized, adequately funded and effectively managed protected areas as one of the most important actions. The National Capacity Self Assessment (NCSA) articulated the synergies between the UNCBD, UNCCD and UNFCCC. It identified actions relevant to country capacity development for implementing the Rio Conventions.    The Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS) released in 2008 placed environment as a ÔÇ£cross cutting issueÔÇØ to the three main pillars of AfghanistanÔÇÖs National Strategy: (i) Security, (ii) Governance, Rule of Law, and Human Rights, (iii) Economic and Social Development. Under environmental management, the ANDS prioritizes restoration and sustainable use of rangelands and forests, conservation of biodiversity, preservation of Natural and Cultural Heritage sites or resources, community based natural resource management, reducing pollution, and improving environmental management, education and awareness. The National Protected Area System Plan is in line with the development strategy and promotes many of its priorities.This project will contribute towards the National Priority Programs (NPP) numbers 10, 8 and 16. Presently there is development of a specific NPP on environmental conservation which is intended to address rangelands, forestry, protected areas and most importantly capacity development at all levels so that in the future citizens are trained and equipped to protect their environment and resources. The Environment Law of 2007, Articles 38 and 39 direct NEPA to develop a National Protected Area System Plan. This was approved and is in force since November 2010. This project is the initial implementation of this NPASP. Finally, in the Afghanistan Country Report to UNCCD, land degradation issues and challenges have been mentioned, many of which are going to be addressed by this proposed project. |

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| **Project Contacts** | |
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| Project Implementing Partner | Mr. Qais Sahar (qsahar@wcs.org) |
| Other Partners | *(not set or not applicable)* |

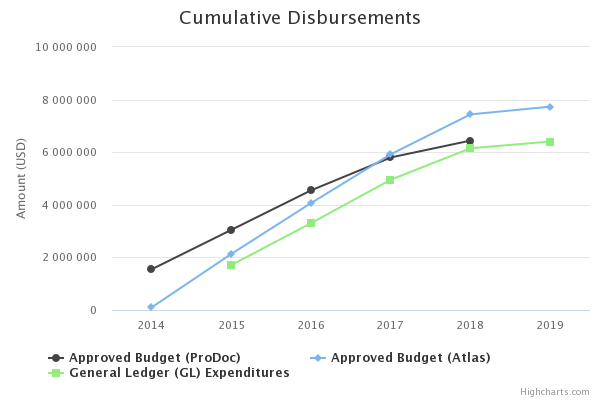
# Overall Ratings

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| Overall DO Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall IP Rating | Satisfactory |
| Overall Risk Rating | Low |

# Development Progress

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| **Description** | | | | | | |
| **Objective**  **To establish a national system of protected areas to conserve biodiversity and mitigate land degradation pressures on habitats in key biodiversity areas, initially centered in Bamyan and the Wakhan.** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Operational status of Afghanistan Parks and Wildlife Authority. [Note: Following the MTR findings and discussions with MAIL & NEPA, this indicator will not be achievable because of the current political situation in Afghanistan. The indicator has been revised as follows: Institutional capacity of key conservation agencies as measured by CD scorecard for: 1) MAIL/NEPA; 2) BACC; and 3) WPA | New baseline for the revised indicator: 1) MAIL/NEPA: 42%; 2) BACC: 24%; 3) WPA: 24% | *(not set or not applicable)* | Revised EoP: 1) MAIL/NEPA: 55%; 2) BACC: 35%; 3) WPA: 35% | In progress. Final measurement of institutional capacity will be carried out by the end of the project’s activities in December 2018. | Target achieved: Over target.  MAIL&NEPA: 60%  BACC: 40%  WPA: 40% |
| Coverage of managed PA estate. | 60,616 ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1,155,682 ha | Achieved. 1,155,682 ha; target achieved. | Target achieved:  1,155,682 ha |
| Area of PA and rangeland effectively co-managed. | 60,616 ha | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1,169,647 ha | In progress. 157,097 ha of rangeland are effectively co-managed. The end of project target is an unrealistic overestimate of rangeland size in protected areas (proposed in the project formulation phase). It was considered that the totality of PAs land cover was rangeland whereas it is a mosaic of different land covers (e.g. ice and rocks, agricultural areas, settlement zones, alluvial fans etc.) | Target achieved: Over target.  1,238,902 ha    BANP, WNP, BPWR, and TWR have been officially declared.    The BANP, WNP, BPWR, and TWR co-managed between government and BACC/WPA and 20% of Bamyan Plateau adjacent to BANP under partial management. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Achieved** | | | | |
| **Outcome 1**  **A National PA system is established with legal, planning, policy and institutional frameworks for expansion and management for the PA estate in the country** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Number of laws/regulations relating to PAs approved. | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 2 | In Progress. The hunting & wildlife Law is still under review.  PA regulation drafted and under review. Both are under review of the government and is expected to be finalized by end of 2018. | In Progress / Under target:  The project technically supported the drafting of the Wildlife Management and Hunting Law. The Law is drafted by NEPA, approved by MAIL and NEPA and has sent to the Office of the President of Afghanistan for final approval. |
| Number of strategic/ operational plans developed & implemented by APWA. [Note: This has been revised after the MTR recommendation and subsequent approval by PB. Revised indicator: No. of strategy/Ops plans developed and implemented by MAIL/NEPA] | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1 | Not achieved. As per the MTR suggestion and agreement of Project Board Meeting (PBM) on 20 February 2018, it is decided that APWA establishment is not feasible anymore. However, the Project contributed to the development of the protected area management pillar (one of four pillars) of the National Natural Resource Management Strategy. The NRM strategy serves as the national plan for protected area management. | Target Achieved:  The project extended its technical support to MAIL in developing the NRM Strategy and later on in devising the NRM Operational Manual for NRM Strategy, particularly the PA chapter. Currently, both documents are implementing by NRM stakeholders in Afghanistan. |
| APWA effectiveness. [Note: This indicator will not be reported in 2018 PIR as the establishment of APWA is not feasible within the the current political context in Afghanistan] | 42% | *(not set or not applicable)* | 60% | Deleted this indicator as explained above. Not achieved. As per the MTR suggestion and agreement of Project Board Meeting (PBM) on 20 February 2018, it is decided that APWA establishment is not feasible anymore. | Not applicable as APWA could not be established following the presidential decision and NEPA/MAIL disagreement on PA management |
| PA system revenue. | 9.62% | *(not set or not applicable)* | 30% | This isn’t relevant anymore as UNDP doesn’t use this. Moreover, this was highly dependent on APWA establishment, now that APWA isn’t established, the target cannot be achieved. | Not applicable as APWA could not be established following the presidential decision and NEPA/MAIL disagreement on PA management (no agreement on revenue sharing at government level) |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **On track** | | | | |
| **Outcome 2**  **Protected area coverage and protection status is improved to increase biodiversity representativeness and ecological resilience** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Co-management legislation adopted. | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1 | In progress. The hunting & wildlife Law is still under review.  PA regulation drafted and under review. Both are under review of the government and is expected to be finalized by end of 2018. | In Progress/Under target:  The project technically supported MAIL in the drafting of the PA regulation. The regulation is currently under review. |
| Rangeland habitat condition within PA core zones. | To be determined from baseline studies. [Note: baseline determined as follows: 1) BANP - (i) Erosion: 94% moderate to high; (ii) Intensive Grazing: 70%; (iii) Shrub Harvesting Impact: 53%  2) WNP: (i) Erosion: 72% moderate to high; (ii) Intensive Grazing: 88%; (iii) Shrub Harvesting Impact: 25% | *(not set or not applicable)* | To be determined from baseline studies. | In progress.  The final measurement of this indicator is ongoing, and results will be available by the end of the project as planned in ProDoc at the beginning | BNP: On target for erosion and shrub harvesting, under target for grazing (due to the drought situation in 2017-2018).  BANP:  Erosion: 86% moderate to high, non significant (NS) change.  Intensive grazing: 79% (significantly higher)  Shrub harvesting impact: 60% (NS change)    WNP: On target for grazing and shrub harvesting, under target for erosion.    WNP:  Erosion: 81% moderate to high (significantly higher)  Intensive grazing: 82% (NS change)  Shrub harvesting impact: 14% (NS change) |
| Number of PA management plans being implemented. | 1 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 4 | In progress. Band-e-Amir National Park (BANP), Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve (BPWR), and Tegermansu Wildlife Reserve (TWR) management plans are implemented by government and NGOs relevant stakeholders. WNP management plan technically approved by the government, and now under review for implementation modalities | Under target:  Band-e-Amir National Park (BANP), Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve (BPWR), and Teggermansu Wildlife Reserve (TWR) management plans are implemented by government and NGOs relevant stakeholders. WNP management plan technically approved by the government, and now under review for implementation modalities, but not yet implemented. |
| Number and coverage (ha) of PA areas:  1) Band-e-Amir NP  2) Big Pamir WR  3) Teggermansu WR  4) Wakhan Conservation Area | 1 PA    1) 60,616  2) 0  3) 0  4) 0  Total: 60,616 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 4 PAs    1) 60,616  2) 57,664  3) 24,851  4) 1,095,066  Total: 1,155,682 | Achieved.  The justification process for nomination of Bamyan Plateau (416,137 ha) as a protected area is ongoing as planned in the revised results framework approved in project board meeting of 20 February 2018. The nomination process is hoped to be finalized by end of 2018, however, the finalization process is out of project scope and can be influenced by multiple political and technical factors. | Target achieved:      Band-e-Amir NP = 60,616 ha  Big Pamir WR = 57,664 ha    Teggermansu WR = 24,851 ha    Wakhan NP = 1,095,066 ha    The project undertook comprehensive field surveys and literature review and developed the justification document for the nomination of Bamyan Plateau (416,137 ha) as a protected area and shared it with NEPA. NEPA has shared the document with MAIL for their review and approval. The Bamyan Plateau shall be jointly (NEPA and MAIL) declared as an official PA by the end of 2019.    Note: During a recent interview broadcasted by VOA, Bamyan Provincial NEPA Director said that Bamyan Plateau will be ‘declared as a PA soon’ (the link is available in Project links & social media  section of this report) |
| PA effectiveness (METT score) for:    1) Band-e-Amir NP  2) Big Pamir WR [Note: revised to Wakhan] | 1) 60.6%  2) 53.8% | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1) 70%  2) 70% | In progress. In 2017, Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) score for BANP was 73.5% and  53.1% for WNP meaning the target for BANP is already achieved. The WNP target is dependent on approval of WNP management plan. A final measurement will be done by the end of the project (12/2018). | BANP: Over target 76%  WNP: Slightly under target 68% (management plan not operational) |
| Extent of new hillside farming in Band-e-Amir NP [Note: the indicator has been modified as: Extent of new hillside farming in Lalmi and control areas BANP] | To be determined from baseline studies. [Note: baseline area determined: 2,091 hectares] | *(not set or not applicable)* | No increase on baseline | Final measurements are planned for Oct-Nov 2018 (end of harvesting season). | On target: No increase in lalmi areas      Under target: (although expansion |
| Designation of a new PA connecting BANP to Bamyan Plateau [Note: This has been proposed following MTR recommendation to replace the APWA establishment with initiation of Northern Plateau as PA] | 1) Strategy document prepared for establishing Bamyan Plateau as a new PA    2) Community INRM institution established [which shall include rangers’ team, capacity building, etc.]    3) METT baseline for Bamyan Plateau | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1) Document prepared;    2) Community INRM institution    3) METT Target to be established based on the baseline level. | In progress and on-track.  1) Data collection is on-going, and the document will be delivered to NEPA in November 2018.  2) Substantial progress has been made this year towards setting up and enhancing conservation structures (i.e. building the capacity of community rangers in the area) and building the case for nomination of a new PA (through the ecological and socio-economic surveys conducted by the project during Q2 2018 or being conducted during Q3 2018). A model of INRM institution will be proposed to communities by the end of the project.  3) METT measurement will be done by project (possibly a preliminary form of METT if the institution not yet established) by the end of the project. | 1) On target:    Bamyan Plateau comprehensive justification document completed and handed over to NEPA.    2) Under target  Justification: Establishing community institution requires more than 18 months of preparation and explanations, because of large area size inhabited by several ethic groups. However, a community-based ranger force already operates effectively thanks to the project.  3) Under target    METT baseline not established as institutions not yet officially created. |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Achieved** | | | | |
| **Outcome 3**  **Protected Area Management effectiveness and climate-resilient Sustainable Land Management (SLM) is enhanced to reduce threats to pilot PAs** | | | | | | |
| **Description of Indicator** | **Baseline Level** | **Midterm target level** | **End of project target level** | **Level at 30 June 2018** | **Cumulative progress since project start** |
| Status of snow leopard monitoring | Basic monitoring program in place | *(not set or not applicable)* | Comprehensive ecological monitoring program functional | Achieved. The GEF-6 project has been designed to support the continuity of this activity and expand into additional capacity building efforts and sustainability. | Achieved:    Population and threats monitored efficiently, conservation actions implemented. The GEF-6 project is to support additional capacity building efforts and sustainability. |
| Number of Hectares put under SLM regime | 0 | *(not set or not applicable)* | 1,169,647 | In progress. 143,131 ha (i.e. BANP, BPWR, TWR) are effectively managed under a government approved management plan. (1,095,066 ha for WNP receive partial management activities from the government but the final management plan is still pending government approval). | Under target:    1,155,682 ha of the landscape are effectively co-managed (operating or drafted management plans) but the sustainability is difficult to evaluate |
| Annual community income in Band-e-Amir & Wakhan from conservation/PA management [Note: the indicator has been modified as: Community Socio-Economic well-being indices in BANP and WNP] | To be determined from baseline studies. | *(not set or not applicable)* | 25% increase on baseline [revised in 2017: 15% increase from the baseline] | In progress. The final measurement of this indicator is ongoing, and results will be available by the end of project in ProDoc. | WNP: Under target as only - +6% significant increase) (Roshan 2018)    BANP: Under target: Well-being index remained stable. Targets were too ambitious as stable well-being index in BANP and increasing by 6% in two years in WNP are very positive results in the current Afghan context. 15% over a period of 4 years is difficult to achieve by any normal standards. |
| Community association (BACC & WPA) capacity score | 24% | *(not set or not applicable)* | 35% | To be measured at project end | Over target:  40%  40% |
| Female participation in village SLM and PA management committees | WPA = 12.5%    BACC = 0% | *(not set or not applicable)* | All PA co-management bodies >20% | Achieved.  WPA = 20%  BACC = 20% | Under target: Female participation has increased significantly in both PAs but slightly short of target expectations.    WPA = 17%  BACC = 18% |
| Proportion of PA tourism revenue returned to local communities rather than retained by government | 0% | *(not set or not applicable)* | 30% | Revenue sharing mechanism implementation pending finalization of PA regulation | Under target:  no agreement on revenue sharing at the government level |
| Number of Marco Polo Sshee in Big Pamir | 340 (+/- 122) | *(not set or not applicable)* | 340 (+/- 122) | Achieved.  411(+/- 134) in 2017.  A final population estimated is planned for Sept/Oct 2018 as per plan in ProDoc. | Achieved:    422 (+/-137) ( NS change) (Rajabi and Ostrowski 2018) |
| Plant cover in target areas | 1) BANP: mean vegetation cover = 20% (5-32%).    2) WNP: mean vegetation cover = 29% (2%-100%). | *(not set or not applicable)* | Maintain or increase coverage from baseline level | In progress. The final measurement of this indicator is ongoing, and results will be available by the end of project as planned in ProDoc. | BANP: On target  BANP: mean vegetation cover = 19% (NS change) (Zandler 2018a)    WNP: Under target (i.e. drought in 2017-2018)  WNP: mean vegetation cover = 24% (SS decrease) (Zandler 2018b) |
| **The progress of the objective can be described as:** | | **Achieved** | | | | |

# Implementation Progress



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| Cumulative GL delivery against total approved amount (in prodoc): | 99.42% |
| Cumulative GL delivery against expected delivery as of this year: | 99.42% |
| Cumulative disbursement as of 30 June (note: amount to be updated in late August): | 6,404,695 |

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| **Key Financing Amounts** | |
| PPG Amount | 140,000 |
| GEF Grant Amount | 6,441,819 |
| Co-financing | 53,300,000 |

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| **Key Project Dates** | |
| PIF Approval Date | Jun 5, 2012 |
| CEO Endorsement Date | Feb 25, 2014 |
| Project Document Signature Date (project start date): | Apr 27, 2014 |
| Date of Inception Workshop | Jul 21, 2014 |
| Expected Date of Mid-term Review | Oct 31, 2017 |
| Actual Date of Mid-term Review | Dec 12, 2017 |
| Expected Date of Terminal Evaluation | Dec 11, 2019 |
| Original Planned Closing Date | Apr 26, 2019 |
| Revised Planned Closing Date | *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Dates of Project Steering Committee/Board Meetings during reporting period (30 June 2018 to 1 July 2019)** |

# Critical Risk Management

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| Current Types of Critical Risks | Critical risk management measures undertaken this reporting period |

# Adjustments

**Comments on delays in key project milestones**

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| **Project Manager: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| Despite substantive progress made against the updating the WNP and BANP management plans, but these plans still are under progress and waiting to be signed by NEPA and MAIL senior staff. The main reason behind this delay is the prolonged discussions between MAIL and NEPA over the protected areas management mandate as well as ambiguity on the benefit-sharing mechanism arising from protected areas. The approval of the management plans remains on hold until the government agencies (MAIL, NEPA, the Ministry of Finance and provincial government) agree on a specific mechanism for benefit sharing. |

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| **Country Office: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The terminal evaluation was delayed by 6 months. The TE was scheduled for November 2018 - January 2019, however, due to the closure of Wakhan in winter, the evaluation couldn't be done at that stage. |

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| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser: please provide comments on delays this reporting period in achieving any of the following key project milestones: inception workshop, mid-term review, terminal evaluation and/or project closure. If there are no delays please indicate not applicable.** |
| The terminal evaluation was initially planned in December 2018, and got delayed by few months because of extreme weather conditions as Wakhan is inaccessible in winter. This is further compounded by security reasons which has constrained CO from finding individual or consultancy firm to undertake the TE. |

# Ratings and Overall Assessments

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| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Manager/Coordinator** | Satisfactory | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | The project has met a number of important targets of outcome 2 (Protect area cover and status improved to increase resilience and eco representativeness) and of outcome 3 (Sustainable Land Management enhanced to reduce threats to PAs). Importantly the targets not achieved were either missed by little (e.g. involvement of females in community institutions), as a result of too ambitions (and sometimes arbitrary level) targets (e.g. well-being indices) or as a result of the stochastic situation (e.g. drought for rangeland health parameters). However, outcome 1 (National PA system established with legal, institutional, policy & planning frameworks) of the project was not achieved due to the President’s decision to not establish any new government agencies, as well as a lack of clarity in the legislation over the responsibilities of implementing partners. The 2016 mid-term review, recommended that the project be refocused in building the capacity of existing government agencies and preparing for the extension of the PA network into a large and important area for conservation, the Bamyan Plateau in Bamyan province.  Under Outcome 1, the project supported technically and financially NEPA delegation to participate effectively in the 14th Conference of Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity - (CBD) in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, provided technical support to MAIL to participate in the regional workshop on "Harmonizing Conservation & Development of Protected Areas along the Silk Road" organized by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) in Lanzhou University, China. Finally, the project also provided a presentation and facilitated consultation sessions for NEPA on the snow leopard conservation situation in Afghanistan, which was delivered at the Snow Leopard conference in Shenzhen, China. The envisage result of these supports is that NEPA and MAIL are now better capacitated and prepared to fulfill their obligations under International Conventions.    As part of outreach and public awareness initiatives, the project provided financial and technical support to NEPA for the celebration of the Global Climate Change Week and the International Mountains Day.    To raise awareness and increase knowledge on protected areas and their management, on biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management, the project conducted a second round of EEP (wildlife identification and food chain) for 334 students (164 girls) and 46 teachers in seven selected schools in WNP. In BANP, the project delivered the second and third round of EEP in five selected schools. Knowledge of 163 (74 girls) and 172 (82 girls) school students related to wildlife adaptation, food chain and NR conflict increased in the first and second training, respectively.    As part of community ranger’s capacity building and improvement of law enforcement, the project delivered multiple trainings including (1) a one-week SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) training to five rangers in the Wakhan National Park, (2) three one-day training workshops for 94 participants, including 19 women, from the government, INGOs/NGOs and BACC, (3) three one-day awareness workshops in Khandud Village Little Pamir and in Sarhad-e Broghil Village on illegal hunting, (4) a two-day training of WPA newly hired cashier on basic computer use and finance management principles, (5) together with NEPA, the project delivered a one-day workshop on environment and hygiene for 57 business owners of BANP, and (6) a public awareness campaign in the 42 villages of Wakhan Valley for 1,292 women and 410 children on snow leopard basic ecology, behavior and the importance of the species conservation for Wakhan community development and ecosystem management.    Under Outcome 2 legal and management status of BANP and WNP were improved. The project facilitated series of meetings at Kabul level and arranged a four-day visit of government delegates including NEPA General Director and NRM General Director, with their technical teams to BANP to accelerate approval of the management plan. Following these facilitations, the BANP management plan was finalized at provincial level and approved (i.e. signed) by NEPA’s General Director in Kabul and has been sent to MAIL Minister for approval and implementation.  For WNP Management Plan, the project facilitated two meetings between NEPA and MAIL at Kabul to accelerate its approval. Both governmental organizations agreed on the technical issues of the management plan and the plan has been shared with NEPA Badakhshan Office to be recirculated amongst communities of WNP for the second round of consultation.    In addition, the project completed comprehesive surveys of Bamyan Plateau. Their results were synthesized and organized in a justification document providing all the information required by the Article 42 of the Environment Law of Afghanistan to support the legal designation of Bamyan Plateau as Afghanistan’s fifth protected area. The document was officially handed over to NEPA in November 2018.    Under Outcome 3,  The project supported communities’ livelihood through reduction of human-wildlife conflict by constructing maintaining respectively two and five community managed predator proof corrals in Pamirs and the Wakhan Valley. This action protects livestock, also communities’ main livelihood, and reduces the risk of destruction of protected species of predators in retaliation of a livestock predation event.    80,000 saplings of native trees were planted in BANP to help preserve biodiversity and combat deforestation. Two rangeland surveys along with the rain-fed cropping (lalmi) expansion survey in BANP have also helped to determine the level of land conversion to rain-fed agriculture and its potential for livelihoods in the respect of the park’s ecosystems. Construction of 20 appended solar greenhouses in Bamyan Plateau have demonstrated the practical use of clean and renewable energy sources in 20 households. Of the activities listed in the Annual Work Plan 2018, 70% were fully completed and 27% partially implemented (usually at more than 50%) (e.g. only 3 of the 4 awareness meetings with law enforcement authorities in Wakhan were implemented). In general incomplete deliveries were the consequence of delayed funding at a time the bank account of the executing partner was frozen by the government because of unclear guidance on tax issues. This issue is now resolved. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP Country Office Programme Officer** | Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | This reporting period coincided with the project's end and had significant progress towards achieving development objectives. Overall, the project had only 6 months of implementation during the reporting period as the project implementation ended in December 2018. Also, the project Terminal Evaluation was initiated during the reporting period to assess the progress made towards the achievement of the development objective goals.    During this reporting period, the project continued implementation of MTE recommendations. As part of outcome 1, the project continued supporting the government technically for the preparation of major international conferences including CBD COP14, ICIMOD’s regional workshop and Snow Leopard Conference which helped the country address some of their international commitments. Moreover, the project improved the education and awareness-raising activities in line with the MTE recommendations and achieved its targets. The awareness and education programs reached the local population and helped them gain skills for improved park management, improved business management in protected areas as well as improved understanding of the local residents on the needs and importance of the environment protection. One of the key successes of education and awareness-raising activities were the involvement of women in Wakhan.    Under Outcome 2, the project continued working on the improvement of the legal and management status of the WNP and BANP. While the project completed and finalized the plans, the government still hasn’t completed the signature process for the plans. This is due to the long signature-taking process as well as the involvement of many actors multiplied by the fact that 2019 is an election year in the country. Despite the delays in signatures, the management capacity of the BANP and WNP. Moreover, the project conducted multiple surveys in Bamyan Plateau and prepared a justification document for declaring the Bamyan Plateau as a protected area. The surveys indicate the biodiversity importance of the plateau which is higher than Band-e-Amir. Therefore, it is important to declare the area as a protected area.    Under Outcome 3, the project continued community-based livelihoods and conservation activities that reduce human-wildlife conflicts resulting in less predation of key species in Wakhan. Moreover, the plantation and solar energy activities were carried out which helps improve the fragile shrub-land in Band-e-Amir by restoring the area as well as reducing shrub usage for fuelwood. The end of the project surveys indicates the positive results of the project in terms of conservation.    Overall, the project was able to achieve most of the activities in the project annual work plan as well as project development objectives despite many logistical issues such as bank closures, security events, and others. It was also evident some project indicators were over-ambitious such as the implementation of regulations and laws that were outside project control and influence. This is good as the project wasn’t seen as only WCS or UNDP but also included government functions that go beyond a project. Despite this, the project took steps to ensure the completion of all steps that are in the project’s control. It is also advantageous that WCS and UNDP continue working and support government through upcoming GEF funds so will be following on completion of pending signatures and progress.  UNDP also had a monitoring visit to Band-e-Amir together with NEPA during the reporting period. The communities, as well as local government, showed satisfaction of the project and project activities. Communities, in particular, were appreciative of project activities especially activities that improve their livelihoods (tourism facilities, markets, etc.) and give communities alternative sources (for example, plantation and solar energy). The project is now finished and the communities, as well as local government, were concerned about the continuation of the activities in Band-e-Amir considering there are no further donor funds. | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **GEF Operational Focal point** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Project Implementing Partner** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **Other Partners** | *(not set or not applicable)* | *- IP Rating provided by UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser and UNDP Country Office only -* |
| Overall Assessment | *(not set or not applicable)* | |
| **Role** | **2019 Development Objective Progress Rating** | **2019 Implementation Progress Rating** |
| **UNDP-GEF Technical Adviser** | Satisfactory | Satisfactory |
| Overall Assessment | The final PIR of the project ‘Establishing integrated models for protected areas and their co-management in Afghanistan’ was supposed to be in 2018. However, the terminal evaluation of the project could not take place in April 2019 because of the issue of accessibility to the project site in Wakhan due to snow and, also for not being able to find individual consultant or consultancy firm on time. As a result, the TE has to be shifted to mid-June 2019. The TE has been completed and in the process of finalizing the TE report.    This project demonstrated an excellent partnership between the government and NGO implementing partner (WCS) and has been further extended to the implementation of GEF-6 project on Snow Leopard (PIMS 5844). The project has been successfully completed, and majority of the EOP milestones have been achieved based on the project results framework which was adjusted after the MTR in 2017.    In light of the results that have been achieved for the current reporting period, I have given development objective (DO) and implementation progress (IP) rating of ‘Satisfactory’.    PROGRESS TOWARDS DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVES (DO):  The project’s objective is to establish a national system of protected areas to conserve biodiversity and mitigate land degradation pressures on habitats in key biodiversity areas, initially centered in Bamyan and the Wakhan. The project seeks to achieve its objective through supporting the establishment of a legally recognised and institutionally capable PA authority (Outcome 1); gazetting three new PAs (in Wakhan), operationalising the management of four PAs (Outcome 2); developing sustainable natural resource management and livelihoods solutions (Outcome 3).    DO and outcome achievements during the current reporting period are summarized below:    1. The project has made a significant achievement in establishing protected areas and strengthening its management in Afghanistan. The project supported establishing and declaring four PAs: (i) Band-e-Amir National Park (BANP), (ii) Big Pamir Wildlife Reserve (BPWR), (iii) Teggermansu Wildlife Reserve (TWR), and (iv) Wakhan National Park (WNP) covering a total area of 1,238,902 ha. The Management Plans of BNAP, BPWR and TWR have been prepared, approved and currently implemented by the government and other partners, whereas WNP management plan has been approved by the government and under review for implementation modalities. The Management effectiveness of BANP and WNP showed good improvement over the baseline. The project conducted surveys to furnish justification to declare Bamyan Plateau as the new PA covering around 416,137 ha.    (2) Legislation and policies related to PA and INRM - the project supported the drafting of the Wildlife Management and Hunting Law, which is now with the Office of the President of Afghanistan for final approval. PA regulation has been drafted and is currently under review. Project supported MAIL in developing the NRM Strategy and the Operational Manual particularly, the PA chapter. Both the documents are used by NRM stakeholders in Afghanistan.    (3) Another significant achievement of the project is enhancing institutional capacity of key conservation agencies (MAIL/NEPA) including community-based institutions such as Wakhan Pamir Association (WPA) and Band-e Amir Community Council (BACC) as measured by CD scorecard assessment. The CD scores of MAIL&NEPA was 60% (2018) from a baseline of 42% (2014); BACC was 40% (in 2018) from a baseline of 24% (2014); and WPA was 40% in 2018 from a baseline of 20% (2014). Number of capacity building programs have been supported at the local level, and participation of delegation from MAIL and NEPA to international meetings such as CBD COP, Regional workshops, etc.    (4) The project team has prepared a closure report in March 2019, and some interesting lessons learned documented in the report include:    (i) The project team in Wakhan has been successful in raising awareness amongst a significant proportion of women in targeted population. It required an enhanced commitment of the staff, a well-prepared woman trainer and the development of good training material and method. Successful approach that the project found effective to engage women in education and awareness program was using “woman-only” approach.    (ii) The findings from the project M&E and results of SMART patrolling by community rangers in WNP, demonstrated the importance of having staff presence during winter months as many cases of illegal hunting occur in this area in winter. Operating in winter would pose logistical challenge but should be considered as a way forward to tackle issue of illegal hunting and trade in this protected area.    (iii) The project learned that the role of media to create public awareness and motivate authorities to implement conservation actions and natural resource management is found to be impactful in Afghanistan. It has been noticed that media frequently communicated on very important issues happening in Band-e-Amir National Park and Wakhan National Park, such as poaching problems. This has helped to gain attention and action from the provincial and district authorities in park management and conservation.    (iv) Rangers play a critical role in protected area management. It is therefore, important for government to employ motivated rangers permanently. The current system of employing new rangers every year is found to be counterproductive. In BANP, it has become important to continue employing women rangers as the number of women visiting the park has increased to about 80,000 annually. Women rangers trained in tourist management can be used as guide to manage tourist visiting the park.    IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS  The project has recorded a cumulative financial delivery of 99.42% (U$ 6.405 million) as of the project closure.    The terminal evaluation commenced in April with a field mission to the project site in Wakhan from 24 June – 17 July 2019. The evaluation noted that the project has achieved significant results and can be considered game changer for Afghanistan’s conservation policy and practice. The overall project results have been rated ‘Satisfactory’. Some of the key recommendations from the TE are as summarized below:    (1) Adopt the pending legislation and protected area management plans, declare Bamyan Plateau as protected area;  (2) Professionalise MAIL ranger system and consider continued international support to it;  (3) Address status of women rangers and female business opportunities in BANP;  (4) Facilitate the exchange of technical and research data from the project with other organisations nationally and locally  (5) Ensure full archiving of EIMPA project documentation with NEPA as GEF OFP in Afghanistan    The CO and WCS should finalize the TE report by October 2019 and, in parallel prepare action plan to implement the recommendations. Some of the recommendations can be taken up through the ongoing GEF-6 SLP (PIMS 5844). | |

# Gender

**Progress in Advancing Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment**

This information is used in the UNDP-GEF Annual Performance Report, UNDP-GEF Annual Gender Report, reporting to the UNDP Gender Steering and Implementation Committee and for other internal and external communications and learning.  The Project Manager and/or Project Gender Officer should complete this section with support from the UNDP Country Office.

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| **Gender Analysis and Action Plan:** *not available* |
| **Please review the project's Gender Analysis and Action Plan. If the document is not attached or an updated Gender Analysis and/or Gender Action Plan is available please upload the document below or send to the Regional Programme Associate to upload in PIMS+. Please note that all projects approved since 1 July 2014 are required to carry out a gender analysis and all projects approved since 1 July 2018 are required to have a gender analysis and action plan.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **Please indicate in which results areas the project is contributing to gender equality (you may select more than one results area, or select not applicable):** |
| Contributing to closing gender gaps in access to and control over resources: Yes |
| Improving the participation and decision-making of women in natural resource governance: Yes |
| Targeting socio-economic benefits and services for women: Yes |
| Not applicable: No |

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| **Atlas Gender Marker Rating** |
| **GEN2:** gender equality as significant objective |

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| **Please describe any experiences or linkages (direct or indirect) between project activities and gender-based violence (GBV). This information is for UNDP use only and will not be shared with GEF Secretariat.** |
| The project assigned the Environmental Education Program Team Leader (a lady) as the Gender Advisor to the Project Manager and WCS Afghanistan Program. The Gender Advisor visited both project intervention areas (BANP and WNP) and met with all women individually. The advisor did not find any significant gender violence in the project integration areas, however, a list of general recommendations submitted to the project Senior Management Team to be considered to improve gender equality not only in WNP and BANP but also at Kabul level. |

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| **Please specify results achieved this reporting period that focus on increasing gender equality and the empowerment of women.**    **Please explain how the results reported addressed the different needs of men or women, changed norms, values, and power structures, and/or contributed to transforming or challenging gender inequalities and discrimination.** |
| Understanding and promoting the role of women in both natural resource use and conservation is critical to the success of the project. For that reason, the project staff aimed to engage women wherever possible in project activities to ensure that their voice is heard, and they benefit from project outcomes, either as individuals or as members of beneficiary households and communities. Nevertheless, the prevailing socio-cultural attitudes to the role of women in rural Afghan society have presented considerable challenges in realizing this. In spite of these constraints, the project has achieved the following this year (2018):    - Awareness of 1,292 women (30% of the female population aged 15 years or more in the Wakhan Valley) with numerous children was increased on snow leopard and wolf ecology including on understanding of the natural history of snow leopard, learning of the protection regulations and snow leopard usefulness in the ecosystem.    - Awareness of 164 female students in WNP and 74 female students in BANP about wildlife conservation and food chain was increased through implementation of the EEP.    - Ninety-eight women were engaged in Bamyan Plateau interviews in the course of a socio-economic survey. Women involved in the survey were provided an opportunity to think and express their opinion about conservation activities and BP as a potential protected area. |

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| **Please describe how work to advance gender equality and women's empowerment enhanced the project's environmental and/or resilience outcomes.** |
| During this reporting period, the project endeavored to engage women at all levels in project activities and to ensure that women benefited from them, where possible individually, but if not then at least as members of beneficiary households.    Women particularly young female residence of Wakhan National Park benefited from different awareness ranging program ranging from snow leopard and wolf ecology to habitat conservation and how these big predators can help to attract tourists and support tourism program in the WNP to their involvement in the environmental education program in both intervention areas (e.g. WNP and BANP). In addition, women were involved in socio-economic surveys where they learned about natural resources management and how biodiversity conservation can support livelihood opportunities. |

# Social and Environmental Standards

**Social and Environmental Standards (Safeguards)**

The Project Manager and/or the project’s Safeguards Officer should complete this section of the PIR with support from the UNDP Country Office. The UNDP-GEF RTA should review to ensure it is complete and accurate.

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| **1) Have any new social and/or environmental risks been identified during project implementation?** |
| No |

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| **If any new social and/or environmental risks have been identified during project implementation please describe the new risk(s) and the response to it.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **2) Have any existing social and/or environmental risks been escalated during the reporting period? For example, when a low risk increased to moderate, or a moderate risk increased to high.** |
| No |

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| **If any existing social and/or environmental risks have been escalated during implementation please describe the change(s) and the response to it.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **SESP:** [5038\_Environmental and Social Screening Summary.pdf](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5038/213757/1718024/1724886/5038_Environmental%20and%20Social%20Screening%20Summary.pdf)  **Environmental and Social Management Plan/Framework:** *not available* |
| **For reference, please find below the project's safeguards screening (Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) or the old ESSP tool); management plans (if any); and its SESP categorization above. Please note that the SESP categorization might have been corrected during a centralized review.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **3) Have any required social and environmental assessments and/or management plans been prepared in the reporting period? For example, an updated Stakeholder Engagement Plan, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) or Indigenous Peoples Plan.** |
| Not Applicable |

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| **If yes, please upload the document(s) above. If no, please explain when the required documents will be prepared.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

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| **4) Has the project received complaints related to social and/or environmental impacts (actual or potential )?** |
| No |

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| **If yes, please describe the complaint(s) or grievance(s) in detail including the status, significance, who was involved and what action was taken.** |
| *(not set or not applicable)* |

# Communicating Impact

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| **Tell us the story of the project focusing on how the project has helped to improve people’s lives.**  **(This text will be used for UNDP corporate communications, the UNDP-GEF website, and/or other internal and external knowledge and learning efforts.)** |
| WCS Afghanistan has assessed people’s well-being in Band-e-Amir and Wakhan national parks through the measurement of their preferences for goods and services which they consider as necessities or indispensable for their livelihoods. The positive findings made by Fatema Roshan, the WCS leader of these surveys, were that the well-being of people in Band-e-Amir was significantly higher than in villages surrounding the park and that in Wakhan Valley the wellbeing of people increased by an average of 3%/year between 2016 and 2018. Tourism was identified in both parks as the main driver of the emerging economic prosperity and associated improved well-being. Braving the insecurity of the access roads from Kabul, no less than 170,000 Afghan visitors in 2018, travelling often in families and originating from as far as Kandahar to the south or western provinces, enjoyed the beauty of Band-e-Amir, a beacon of peace and stability in the country. Although far fewer in the remote Wakhan, 200 international tourists questioned over their adventurous motivations explained that the beauty of the landscapes, pristine environment and welcoming people were magnets to them. The valuable wildlife and unique habitats of Wakhan, once the poorest and less developed district in Afghanistan, has therefore contributed to improve local people’s lives in a sustainable way. This is what Asli Gul, the dedicated member of WCS Environmental Education Program team in Wakhan brought to the attention of nearly 1,300 women and 400 of their young children, during a unique ‘women-only’ awareness campaign she conducted over three weeks in the Wakhan Valley in November 2018. |

**Knowledge Management, Project Links and Social Media**

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| **Please describe knowledge activities / products as outlined in knowledge management approved at CEO Endorsement /Approval.**    **Please also include: project's website, project page on the UNDP website, blogs, photos stories (e.g. Exposure), Facebook, Twitter, Flickr, YouTube, as well as hyperlinks to any media coverage of the project, for example, stories written by an outside source. Please upload any supporting files, including photos, videos, stories, and other documents using the 'file lirbary' button in the top right of the PIR.** |
| Media coverage in this reporting period including:  1. DAIL Bamyan through VOA announced that Bamyan Plateau will be announced as the third PA in Bamyan province of Afghanistan:  https://www.darivoa.com/a/band-e-amir-bamyan/4960911.html?fbclid=IwAR3HOi03CUGgVmz2MljRRfn3\_9X61EL3gYWYuYm-403hGp-6MNqyRGcjaAY  2. How Band-e-Amir National Park became Afghanistan's oasis of peace    https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/band-e-amir-afghanistan-national-park/index.html |

# Partnerships

**Partnerships & Stakeholder Engagment**

Please select yes or no whether the project is working with any of the following partners. Please also provide an update on stakeholder engagement. This information is used by the GEF and UNDP for reporting and is therefore very important!  All sections must be completed by the Project Manager and reviewed by the CO and RTA.

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| **Does the project work with any Civil Society Organisations and/or NGOs?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with any Indigenous Peoples?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with the Private Sector?** |
| No |

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| **Does the project work with the GEF Small Grants Programme?** |
| Yes |

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| **Does the project work with UN Volunteers?** |
| No |

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| **Did the project support South-South Cooperation and/or Triangular Cooperation efforts in the reporting year?** |
| Yes |

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| **CEO Endorsement Request:** [PIMS 5038 BD Afghanistan PA CEO Endorsement Revised 20 Feb14cm.doc](https://undpgefpims.org/attachments/5038/213757/1678795/1679092/PIMS%20%205038%20BD%20Afghanistan%20PA%20CEO%20Endorsement%20Revised%2020%20Feb14cm.doc) |
| **Provide an update on progress, challenges and outcomes related to stakeholder engagement based on the description of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan as documented at CEO endorsement/approval (see document below). If any surveys have been conducted please upload all survey documents to the PIR file library.** |
| Civil Society Organizations/NGOs:    Wakhan Pamir Association (WPA) and the Band-e-Amir Community Council (BACC) are the two main community-based organizations with whom the project has built tight relationships. The project has improved their capacity to be effectively involved in natural resource management in their areas. Both organizations, comprised of board of members elected from each Community Development Council in Band-e Amir and Wakhan District, are formally registered with the Ministry of Justice. These two institutions are mandated to make natural resource-related decisions on behalf of their constituent communities. During this reporting period, the project supported WPA members to hold multiple meetings to discuss internal management issues and enhance WPA operationalization. During these meetings, the training and capacity building of the board members were discussed and WPA requested the project to provide a training course in finance management and computer literacy and to provide support to the WPA secretary to manage WPA’s daily activities. In response to these request, the project provided a two-day training course for the newly hired WPA cashier on basic computer use and finance management principles. The training improved the administration and effectiveness of WPA.  In Kabul, the project also supported technically the Afghanistan Young Green Organization (a new CSO) by reviewing and providing technical inputs on the draft of a notebook that contained environmental and biodiversity messages and slogans. The envisaged outcome of this initiative is to support this newly established CSOs to consider the environment and natural resources in its activities and to support coordination and network with relevant organizations working in the field of conservation and natural resources management.    Indigenous Peoples:    Approximately 16,000 Afghan Wakhi and 1,700 Afghan Kyrgyz live in WNP and approximately 4,000 Afghan Hazara live in BANP. Historically, they have received little development support, although this situation has changed for the past decade. Their community representatives make up the board members of the WPA and BACC, respectively, and they engage with the project activities in the mentioned landscapes.      GEF Small Grants Programme:    The project provided support to nine CDCs in Band-e Amir to develop concept notes and submit them to the Small Grant Programme (SGP) of GEF. All nine concepts were approved and are currently implementing. The main projects concern the development of appended solar greenhouses (‘Passive Solar Houses’) and micro-hydropower stations. The concepts promoted the intended reduction in fuelwood and shrub consumption, the improvement of domestic air quality, reduced labor cost and a better comfort of life.    Other Partners:    One of the main objectives of the project was to develop partnerships between MAIL, NEPA, the two government agencies responsible for PAs and natural resource management. The project has steadily nurtured partnerships with these stakeholders on co-management of PAs and NRM and then engaged them in multilateral partnerships. The project also endeavored to reinforce the linkages between local and national authorities on governance and in doing so, maintained close contacts with government at provincial and district levels. In general, these partnerships worked well and facilitated rather than hindered PA management implementation.  At the national level, the project has had a close collaborative partnership with a number of relevant stakeholders in the environment or sustainable development sectors including with ICIMOD, UNFAO, AKF, GIZ, Kabul University, and different Afghan CSOs. |

# Annex - Ratings Definitions

**Development Objective Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Project is on track to exceed its end-of-project targets, and is likely to achieve transformational change by project closure. The project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Project is on track to fully achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. The project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Project is on track to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with minor shortcomings only.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is expected to partially achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure with significant shortcomings. Project results might be fully achieved by project closure if adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets by project closure. Project results might be partially achieved by project closure if major adaptive management is undertaken immediately.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Project is off track and is not expected to achieve its end-of-project targets without major restructuring.

**Implementation Progress Ratings Definitions**

(HS) Highly Satisfactory: Implementation is exceeding expectations. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are fully on track. The project is managed extremely efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'outstanding practice'.

(S) Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and risk management are on track. The project is managed efficiently and effectively. The implementation of the project can be presented as 'good practice'.

(MS) Moderately Satisfactory: Implementation is proceeding as planned with minor deviations. Cumulative financial delivery and management of risks are mostly on track, with minor delays. The project is managed well.

(MU) Moderately Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces significant implementation issues. Implementation progress could be improved if adaptive management is undertaken immediately. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are significantly off track. The project is not fully or well supported.

(U) Unsatisfactory: Implementation is not proceeding as planned and faces major implementation issues and restructuring may be necessary. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones, and/or management of critical risks are off track with major issues and/or concerns. The project is not fully or well supported.

(HU) Highly Unsatisfactory: Implementation is seriously under performing and major restructuring is required. Cumulative financial delivery, timing of key implementation milestones (e.g. start of activities), and management of critical risks are severely off track with severe issues and/or concerns. The project is not effectively or efficiently supported.